

BULLETIN OF
THE NEW YORK ACADEMY
OF MEDICINE



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OPENING ADDRESS*

Nineteenth Graduate Fortnight

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THE Graduate Fortnights were established by the Academy in 1928 upon the recommendation of its Committee on Medical Education in appreciation of the periodic need by all practicing physicians for an intensive review of recent advances in the major branches of medicine. Each year a new subject is selected for the theme of the Fortnight. The special field is covered completely within that period by a combined program of morning, afternoon and evening exercises consisting of lectures, demonstrations, exhibits, hospital clinics, seminars and round table discussions. The entire medical profession is eligible to participate. As lecturers and discussion leaders, the Academy assembles the most outstanding authorities in the country.

The scientific exhibits of the Fortnight represent the contributions of many medical schools, teaching hospitals and research laboratories. This year an attempt has been made to group the exhibits according to subject matter rather than by participating institutions, so as to take the most complete advantage of their educational values. It would be

* Given October 7, 1946 at the opening of the Fortnight.

helpful to the Committee on Medical Education and to me, if Fellows of the Academy and visiting physicians will comment on the new arrangement and give us the benefit of their suggestions for future improvement.

When this beautiful building was erected in 1926, adequate provision was made for the Academy's great Library and for its lecture halls and conference rooms. However, the need for exhibit space was completely overlooked. As a result, we have been obliged to set up our educational exhibits in space which we require for meetings, conferences and the every day work of the Academy's many study committees. Throughout the Fortnight, even the halls and corridors of the lower floors are obstructed with valuable exhibits for which we can find no other room.

There is great need for independent space for these educational exhibits and for many other scientific exhibits which should be continued throughout the year, such as the valuable exhibit of drugs now housed temporarily on the second floor. There is also a growing need for additional space for other expanding activities of the Academy's Committee on Medical Education so that educational opportunities similar to those of the Fortnight can be offered through the year not only to the medical profession but also, from time to time, to the general public.

For this purpose, the Academy has acquired three small tenement buildings on the south side of 103rd Street, immediately adjacent to this building. The additional ground space, to which 30 feet in the present building located behind the podium of Hosack Hall could be added, will provide an ideal site for educational exhibit halls. Here would be the central point for utilizing the unexcelled facilities for graduate education which only the great medical institutions of the City of New York can jointly provide. And here also would be the center for indoctrinating the public with reliable scientific information for the purpose of correcting that mass of medical superstition and public ignorance which is the basis for much of the lag between great scientific discoveries and their application to the cure and the prevention of disease and of human suffering.

Although we possess the land, the erection of this much needed addition to the New York Academy of Medicine must unfortunately wait until some person with the means and the imagination appreciates the

importance of this great opportunity for the establishment of a new public service which can play so important a role in improving the quality of medical care in this City and throughout the Nation.

In opening this Nineteenth Fortnight on the subject of Tumors, I take pleasure in calling your attention to the fact that the establishment of the Graduate Fortnight was in large measure due to the influence and work of the late Dr. Ludwig Kast. It is, therefore, most appropriate that the opening lecture of the Fortnight should bear his name. It is now my pleasant duty to welcome the first speaker of the evening, the distinguished investigator who will deliver the Ludwig Kast Memorial Lecture, Dr. Peyton Rous of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.